



# Weekly Special Report



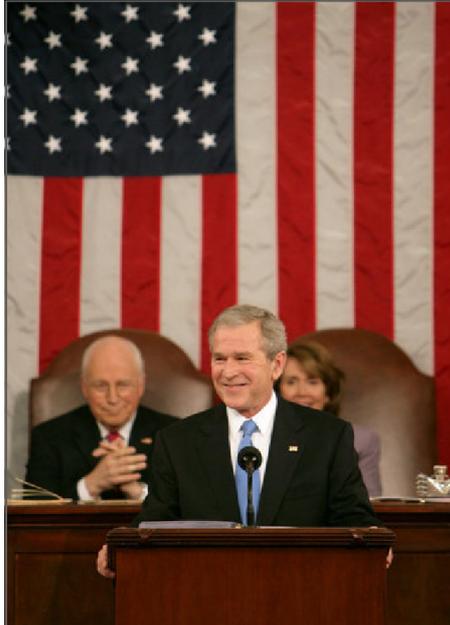
Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### Bush Outlines Priorities for Final Year in Office

By David McKeeby  
Staff Writer

Washington -- "Our foreign policy is based on a clear premise: We trust that people, when given the chance, will choose a future of freedom and peace," President Bush is expected to tell Congress in his State of the Union address January 28. But, he adds, "The advance of liberty is opposed by terrorists and extremists ... [who] aim to subject millions to their violent rule."



President Bush delivers his State of the Union Address Monday, Jan. 28, 2008, at the U.S. Capitol. White House photo

In recent months, Bush repeatedly has promised "a sprint to the finish" of his term in office, so expect a forward-looking speech when the president arrives at the Capitol to deliver his final State of the Union address, says White House press secretary Dana Perino.

The main theme of the address, said Perino, would be Bush's reaffirmation of his belief in the

(Continued on page 2)

### PEPFAR partners urged to focus on sustainability

The United States Government said PEPFAR implementing partners should give due consideration on the sustainability of the HIV care and support service in Ethiopia.

Opening PEPFAR All partners meeting on January 16, 2008 in Addis Ababa, The Deputy Chief of Mis-

(Continued on page 3)



Jon Kaplan, Acting Country Director of CDC, second from right, making closing remarks at the end of the meeting

#### AFRICAN NEWS

Bush Traveling to Africa February 15-21 (P 3)

Kenyans Must Find Political Solution to Current Crisis, U.S. Says (P 4)

Trade Centers Help West African Producers Access Global Markets (P 5)

United States Pledges Support for DRC Peace Deal (P 6)

#### U.S. ELECTIONS 2008

Prospect of Dynasties Not Swaying U.S. 2008 Presidential Vote (P 7)

Americans Abroad Participate in Republican, Democratic Politics (P 8)

What Do Evangelicals Want in 2008? (P 10)

#### AMERICAN NEWS

Businesses Find New Ways To Make Money Online (P 11)

Economic Growth Decline Predicted for 2008, with Rebound in 2009 (P 13)

U.S. Universities Strive To Increase Student Diversity (P 14)

#### INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

Rice Says United States Does Not Want Iran as a Permanent Enemy (P 15)

NATO's Stake in Afghanistan Is High, Shortfalls Must Be Met (P 16)

#### HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES

Autocratic Powers Partly To Blame for Decline in Global Freedom(P17)

Efforts Continue To Keep the World Focused on Human Rights (P 18)

The Birth and Development of Human Rights in the United States (P 19)

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## Bush Outlines Priorities for Final Year in Office . . .

(Continued from page 1)

power of freedom and justice to improve lives around the world. The address is expected to highlight U.S. support for Israelis and Palestinians working toward a two-state solution to the Mideast conflict and the people of Iraq and Afghanistan emerging from decades of oppression and conflict. Bush also is expected to propose a boost in funding for U.S. foreign aid programs to help developing countries realize the benefits of democracy.

### FOREIGN POLICY ROOTED IN FREEDOM, JUSTICE

Bush will express his support for Israeli and Palestinian leaders, who pledged to restart negotiations at a November 2007 conference held at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with the goal of concluding a peace agreement and setting the stage for a Palestinian state by the end of 2008.

On Iraq, Bush will urge Congress and the American people to continue their support and help Iraqis realize what the administration calls "a return on success."

Security conditions in Iraq have improved following a "surge" of 25,000 additional coalition forces, the president is expected to tell Congress. Iraqi security forces have been strengthened, and 80,000 Iraqis are cooperating with authorities to take back their communities from extremists by forming 130 concerned local citizens groups. Monthly attack levels have decreased 60 percent and civilian deaths in sectarian attacks have dropped as much as 90 percent, the president is expected to tell Congress.

"While the enemy is still dangerous and more work remains, the American and Iraqi surges have achieved results few of us could have imagined just one year ago," Bush will say.

The United States began withdrawing its coalition reinforcements in November 2007, and if security conditions continue to improve, military experts expect to see the number of forces in Iraq fall from 160,000 to 130,000 by June.

"Among the terrorists there is no doubt," Bush says, "Al Qaida is on the run in Iraq, and this enemy will be defeated."

The United States remains committed to supporting security operations, political reconciliation and reform, as well as local development through the operation of civilian-led provincial reconstruction teams.

Bush also is expected to announce that the United States will contribute 3,200 more Marines to the international peacekeeping effort in Afghanistan to train Afghan security forces and help bolster security to allow continued progress.

In his speech, Bush is expected to touch on the challenges facing the peoples of Burma, Cuba, Sudan and Zimbabwe, as well as reiterate requests for the Iranian government to stop its support to terrorist groups, suspend its controversial nuclear program and come to the negotiating table.

"To rejoin the community of nations, come clean about your nuclear intentions and past actions, stop your oppression at home, and

cease your support for terror abroad," Bush says. "But above all, know this: America will confront those who threaten our troops, we will stand by our allies, and we will defend our vital interests in the Persian Gulf."

### NEW HUMANITARIAN AID PROPOSALS

Advancing freedom also means helping nations address hunger, disease, poverty, illiteracy and other factors that can allow violent extremism to take root, and Bush will highlight his administration's continuing commitment to humanitarian aid in his final year.

Bush will ask Congress to reauthorize his administration's plan to combat HIV/AIDS in 120 countries and double program funding from \$15 billion to \$30 billion.

Bush also will introduce a new proposal to help nations confront the scourge of hunger by allowing U.S. government agencies providing food assistance to purchase crops directly from farmers in the developing world. The United States provides half of the world's food aid, delivering \$1.7 billion in emergency food to 23 million people in 30 countries during 2007.

Both challenges are likely to figure prominently in his upcoming five-nation tour of Africa February 15-21.

Fact sheets related to the speech on the president's freedom agenda (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2008/January/20080128190231eafas0.5277521.html>), ♦

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## Bush Traveling to Africa February 15-21

**THE WHITE HOUSE**  
*Office of the Press Secretary*  
*January 25, 2008*

### STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

President and Mrs. Bush will travel to Africa from February 15-21, 2008. They will visit Benin, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, and Liberia. This trip will be an opportunity for the President to review firsthand the significant progress since his

last visit in 2003 in efforts to increase economic development and fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other treatable diseases, as a result of the United States' robust programs in these areas.

The President will meet with President Yayi, President Kikwete, President Kagame, President Kufuor, and President Johnson-Sirleaf to discuss how the United States can continue to partner with African countries to support continued democratic re-

form, respect for human rights, free trade, open investment regimes, and economic opportunity across the continent.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## PEPFAR partners urged to focus on sustainability . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

sion of the US embassy, Deborah Malac, said as PEPFAR moves into the last year of the first phase of the Emergency plan, the partners must ensure service sustainability and quality.

The realization of PEPFAR goals and objectives heavily depends on the partnership and harmonization of all PEPFAR partners' plans, reports and budget, she added.

The achievement register in the past years and the success of the COP preparation have proved that the relationship with the Government of Ethiopia has improved greatly through the institutionalization of collaboration, the DCM further commented.

State Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, Dr. Kebede Worku, for his part said that partnership is a working relationship through cooperation and not competition, and added the All partners meeting with such perspective as being exemplary.

The various agreements signed between the GoE and partners are critical in order to avoid duplication and enhance effective resource utilization, the State Minister added.

The current promising success in the health sector should be integrated with non-health sectors, he highlighted

The one day meeting organized under the theme: "Partnership and harmonization of plans," reports and budgets for result' has the objective of optimizing partners' efforts to implement best possible practices, avoid unnecessary duplication and achieve our common goals.

Successes, challenges and plans for FY of TB/HIV, PMTCT, Laboratory and Palliative care were presented at the day long meeting.

More than 175 participants from implementing partners and USG and GoE were in attendance of the meeting. ♦

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## Kenyans Must Find Political Solution to Current Crisis, U.S. Says

By Merle D. Kellerhals, Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Kenya, a nation of nearly 34 million people, is an important friend of the United States, and an important mediator in regional civil strife and humanitarian crises elsewhere in Africa. And so in the current period of violence, the Kenyan leadership must work out a way forward, U.S. officials say.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says that everyone in Kenya should remain calm while a political resolution to the crisis is found.

The nation has been engulfed in civil strife since the December 27 disputed presidential election sparked widespread violence, leaving more than 800 people dead and approximately 250,000 people driven from their homes, according to news reports.

The clashes have pitted ethnic groups against each other as opposition groups rally against the government of President Mwai Kibaki, who claimed victory over his chief rival, Raila Odinga.

"The election was not one that inspired confidence in the Kenyan people. There needs to be a political arrangement, a political solution between the major opposition candidate and the president," Rice said January 28 in Washington. "We very much support what former [U.N.] Secretary-General Kofi Annan is doing, and I plan to talk with him later today or tomorrow about what more the United States and others can do to support his efforts."

U.S. Ambassador Michael E. Ranneberger in Nairobi said recently the United States has consistently maintained that the current crisis, spawned by serious irregularities in the December presidential election, can be resolved only through a political settlement. "We will continue to add our voice to those of Kenyans across the ethnic and political spectrum calling for responsible be-

within four weeks and the broader issues within a year, he said.

Ranneberger said that Annan and a group from the African Union provide an important opportunity to facilitate talks. "Now is the time for all responsible Kenyans, and friends of Kenya, to issue statements that will contribute to a solution of the current crisis, instead of exacerbating the problem," he said.

Joel Barkan, a senior associate in the Africa Program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies, said recently that the historical origins of the current crisis run deep in Kenyan society, and it will take more than a recount of votes or even the formation of a new govern-



*A supporter of Kenya's opposition leader Odinga Raila shows a sign near a burning tyre barricade in Kisumu. (AFP/Yasuyoshi Chiba)*

havior by all parties in the interest of the entire nation," he said.

Annan, who is in Nairobi to mediate a settlement to the disputed election, arranged for Kibaki and Odinga to meet January 24 for about an hour in Kibaki's office. Annan was able to arrange another meeting between Kibaki and Odinga January 29, saying the political crisis could be resolved.

"To the leaders gathered here today, I say that the people want you to take charge of the situation and do whatever possible to halt the downward spiral that is threatening this beautiful and prosperous country," Annan said, according to Reuters news dispatches. The immediate crisis could be resolved

ment to resolve the crisis. "Despite many warnings and pleas for restraint before the election -- from Kenyan civil society, the Kenyan press, and the international community, including the United States -- an election that started well has ended in crisis," he said.

"The way out of the crisis will ultimately depend on Kenya's political class recognizing what civil society and the diplomatic community has made clear -- that Kenya is indeed at the proverbial fork in the road."

Secretary Rice's comments ( <http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2008/01/99804.htm> ) may be obtained from the State Department Web site. ♦

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## Trade Centers Help West African Producers Access Global Markets

By Kathryn McConnell  
Staff Writer

Washington -- American-sponsored business hubs in West Africa are helping the region's competitive industries boost their exports.

Operating from Accra, Ghana, and Dakar, Senegal, the West African Trade Hub (WATH) provides industry-specific training and technology assistance to businesses ready to export. Industries that are benefiting from the support are garments, handicrafts, cashews, shea butter (widely used in cosmetics) and seafood.

Established in 2003 and funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), WATH serves 21 countries. The hub supports the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which offers a U.S. competitive advantage to products made by African countries that adopt economic, legal and human rights reforms and are working to make their trade systems more efficient.

WATH linked Caroline Sack Kendem of Cameroon with an American agent who helped her secure from a U.S. supplier a major order for her garments. It helped her find funding and a supplier of the extra equipment her factory needed to fulfill increasingly larger orders. "WATH was a trigger to a dream.



*A Malian artisan stitches a handbag, part of an order from U.S.-based Hallmark. His company received assistance from WATH. (USAID)*

We got all the tips and knowledge to export to the U.S. market," Kendem said.

The hub helped expand the reach of Burkina Faso and Malian handicraft producers by linking them to U.S. and international markets.

"These people will be ordering on a long-term basis," ... It completely changed the way I do business," said Malian craftmaker Oumar Cisse.

In Ghana, WATH helped a women's garment cooperative streamline production processes and, through international trade shows, to secure more clients with larger orders. Also in Ghana, shea butter producer Gilles Adamon found through

WATH a packaging consultant who helped him wrap his products in quality paper imprinted with African designs.

With WATH assistance, West African nut companies have started to process nuts locally for export to international markets, reducing shipping costs and possible degradation of their product during shipping.

The hub works to reduce bribery that causes delays in the transport of goods, to prevent the spread of crop pests, and to increase animal safety. Using international standards, the

hub established a regional customs information system and trains local trade negotiators.

It provides training in such areas as product-processing standards, labeling, packaging, pricing, marketing and financial management. WATH training enables entrepreneurs to complete U.S. customs forms properly so their goods can receive timely clearance.

Other African trade hubs have been established in Nairobi, Kenya, to serve East and Central Africa, and in Gaborone, Botswana, to serve Southern Africa.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)bn* ♦

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## United States Pledges Support for DRC Peace Deal

**By Stephen Kaufman**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington -- The Bush administration welcomed the signing of a peace agreement between the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and armed groups that could bring an end to months of violent conflict in the eastern part of the country.

In a January 23 statement, White House Press Secretary Dana Perino commended President Joseph Kabila's leadership in securing the agreement and urged all parties to "ensure [its] urgent implementation."

The agreement follows bloody conflict between rebel forces under General Laurent Nkunda and the pro-government Mai Mai militia, which has driven nearly 500,000 people from their homes in the provinces of North and South Kivu.

It calls for an immediate cease-fire, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes, the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, the demobilization or reintegration of all armed groups and amnesty to the rebel forces.

Perino said the goal of the agreement is to help bring lasting stability to the region and address the underlying causes of the conflict.

"The United States, working with the international community, will continue to actively support the Congolese government's commit-

ment to achieve peace and prosperity in eastern Congo," she said.

couraged" by the agreement, which marks an "important step" in restoring peace and stability to the Great



*White House Press Secretary Dana Perino*

At the State Department January 22, Gonzalo Gallegos, director of the office of press relations, said the agreement has been "a priority" for Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"Only last month, she convened a meeting of the Great Lakes heads of state in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to urge them to move forward with a resolution to this conflict," he said, adding that the United States will support the agreement "in conjunction with the international community."

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said he is "very en-

Lakes region. In a January 23 statement read by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Okabe, he reaffirmed the United Nations' commitment to support the parties to the agreement in ending the suffering of the people of the region.

The secretary-general called on the international community, and especially the DRC's neighbors, to "fully support the implementation of these commitments."

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## Prospect of Dynasties Not Swaying U.S. 2008 Presidential Vote

By Eric Green  
Staff Writer

Washington -- American voters seen unconcerned by the prospect of "political dynasties" maintaining their hold on the White House, several political analysts and pollsters tell America.gov.

Juan Williams, senior correspondent for National Public Radio, says public opinion polls show that "voters don't really care very much" that, since 1989, either a Clinton or a Bush has been the nation's chief executive. If Hillary Clinton wins the 2008 presidential election and serves a four-year term ending in January 2013, the U.S. government will have been headed by members of just two families for 24 years.

George Herbert Walker Bush was president from 1989 to 1993, followed by Bill Clinton from 1993 to 2001, succeeded by George W. Bush, whose second term ends in 2009.

Williams is also a contributing political analyst for the Fox News Channel, and author of critically acclaimed books on U.S. race relations, among other subjects. He said that in his travels covering the U.S. presidential election, voters never indicated to him that the Bush-Clinton-Bush cycle is a factor in their decision on whether to vote for the former first lady or for one or her Democratic rivals.

He said U.S. political dynasties appear to be more intriguing for foreign audiences. Williams said another Clinton as president might make it seem to the world "as if we

have this kind of [anti-democratic] majesty bestowed upon people by birth."

Williams said Americans might regard members of two families continuously serving as president as "contrary to what we think of as our national ethos."



He added that world opinion currently seems to be "pretty critical" of the United States, a stance based in large part on opposition to the policies of the Bush administration.

"I don't think the world is anti-American, I genuinely don't believe that," said Williams. "But I think the world disagrees with some" of Bush's policies, "especially in the Middle East."

A factor that might be diminishing voter support for Hillary Clinton, said Williams, is "antagonism" at the Clintons for their campaign tactics against Obama and concern that they would act as "co-presidents."

### VIEWS OF CLINTON'S COLLEGE ADVISER

Alan Schechter, professor emeritus of political science at Wellesley Col-

lege in Massachusetts, said concern about political dynasties conceivably could become an issue in the Democratic presidential race.

But, if Clinton wins the nomination, the more important factor in the general election would be the "negative fallout" regarding Bush administration policies, said

Schechter, an avowed supporter of the New York senator who was her college thesis adviser at Wellesley. (Her 1969 thesis addressed American community organizer Saul Alinsky's anti-poverty movement.)

Schechter said he still keeps in touch with his former student and does a "little campaigning" for her around the United

States.

The "out-party candidate," meaning the Democratic nominee in 2008, will have the automatic advantage in the presidential general election, unless some "unforeseen event" occurs before the November 4 vote that would boost the Republican nominee's prospects, Schechter said.

The real question regarding the Democratic nomination, said Schechter, is how much Obama can continue to sell himself as an "inspiring" figure to voters. Democratic and independent voters who choose Clinton will do so "because they want someone who is experienced regardless of the fact that it's a second Clinton," he said.

The professor said he sees two competing factors balancing out each other: Voters who "might be

*(Continued on page 9)*

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## Americans Abroad Participate in Republican, Democratic Politics

**By Michelle Austein**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington – As Americans vote for party nominees in primaries and caucuses, so will many of the more than 6 million Americans who live overseas. And for the first time, some Democrats will cast their ballots on the Internet.

In 1976, Americans living overseas were granted the right to vote by absentee ballot in presidential and congressional elections. Since then, Americans living abroad have played an increasingly influential role in shaping

politics back home where tight races can be swayed by the number of absentee ballots mailed from overseas. The organizations Republicans Abroad and Democrats Abroad help these Americans stay politically active.

In the general election, Americans abroad can mail an absentee ballot to their last state of residence. Republicans and Democrats can vote absentee in their state party's primaries as well. But Democrats have another option: instead of voting in their home state, they can opt to participate in the Democrats Abroad Global Primary.

Just as states select delegates who cast their votes for a party nominee at a national convention this summer, Democrats Abroad awards delegates. From February 5 to 12, members of Democrats Abroad can mail or fax their ballot, or turn it in at one of 30 drop-in voting centers around the world. These drop-in

voting centers are secure centers operating at a variety of venues, including an Irish pub.

For the first time, Democrats in 2008 also can use a secure Web site to cast their vote. Lindsey Reynolds, executive director of Democ-



*Americans hold a voter registration drive near San Jose, Costa Rica. (@AP Images)*

rats Abroad, said the group recognized that there was a large number of active Democrats around the globe who want to participate.

“We needed to find a way that Americans could participate in our primary process from around the globe. The Internet proved to be that tool.”

Democrats Abroad holds its primaries regionally, awarding delegates proportionally per region. In the spring, these Democrats will meet in regional conferences in Brussels, Belgium, and Vancouver, Canada, to award delegates to the presidential nominees. The party platform also will be discussed at these meetings. Although they do not award delegates, Republicans Abroad also will be gathering this spring as part of its annual meeting in Washington.

### **HISTORY, INFLUENCE OF REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ABROAD**

Just as party members get together to support their favorite candidates or raise attention to important political issues, Republicans and Democrats overseas hold their

own political meetings and rallies. Republicans Abroad, founded in 1978 has about 50 chapters around the world. Democrats Abroad started in 1964 with groups in London and Paris and now has members in more than 100 countries.

Like those living in the United States, Americans in other countries are concerned about international issues such as trade and security. But those overseas also work to teach lawmakers about topics of unique concern to them such as the U.S. federal taxation of those who live abroad and also pay taxes to foreign countries.

Ensuring that Americans' image overseas is accurate is important to both parties' members. The executive directors of both Republicans Abroad and Democrats Abroad said their members see themselves as ambassadors of the United States

when living overseas.



*A member of Democrats Abroad watches the 2004 presidential debate with a member of Republicans Abroad in the Philippines. (@AP Images)*

Many chapters hold meetings to discuss political issues and share information about the presidential candidates.

For example, the Republicans Abroad chapter in Manila, Philippines,

holds monthly meetings to discuss the candidates and issues that will affect the 2008 U.S. election.

*(Continued on page 9)*

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## Americans Abroad Participate in Republican, Democratic Politics . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Members of other chapters gather simply to enjoy an American holiday together, socialize or raise money for charitable causes.

"It's a great way for Americans to meet each other while living abroad, and they know they will have a common interest," said Reynolds.

"It is a great sense of community, sense of belonging," said Cynthia Dillon, executive director of Republicans Abroad.

Supporting their party's candidates and goals is important, but "our primary mission is to make sure Americans overseas register to vote," said Dillon.

Voting overseas often has been a complicated process because different states have different requirements to cast an absentee ballot, leaving Americans abroad often unsure of what they need to do to ensure their vote will count. Additionally, mail service in some countries is so slow that some Americans do not receive the absentee ballot in time to use it.

Both organizations have worked hard to simplify the overseas voting process by providing information on their Web sites,

[www.republicansabroad.org](http://www.republicansabroad.org) ( <http://www.republicansabroad.org/> ) and [www.democratsabroad.org](http://www.democratsabroad.org) ( <http://www.democratsabroad.org/> ) , which direct Americans to the resources they need to obtain an ab-

sentee ballot in their last home state.

They also have lobbied successfully for tools that help those voting overseas. For example, if an American does not receive his or her state's general election ballot in time, he or she instead can vote for president or a congressional representative by using a federal write-in ballot, a standard form available online that allows a voter to write in a candidate of choice.

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## Prospect of Dynasties Not Swaying U.S. 2008 Presidential Vote . . .

(Continued from page 7)

turned off by the concept of dynasty" versus voters "who are turned on by the presence" of Bill Clinton back in the White House.

"My bottom line: I don't think the idea of [dynasty] is that significant," said Schechter.

### POLLSTERS WEIGH IN

Jeffrey Jones of the Gallup Poll in Princeton, New Jersey, said his firm's polling substantiates the view that a majority of American voters do not care that two families have controlled the White House in recent years.

Gallup's November 2-4, 2007, poll found that 54 percent of American voters hold this view. For those who do care, Jones said, 31 percent said dynasties are bad for the country, versus 13 percent who said they were good.

Jones said Republicans probably will use the idea of dynasty against Clinton if she becomes the Democratic nominee, just as the Democrats would employ the same tactic "if the tables were turned and Jeb Bush" (former Florida governor and brother of current President George W. Bush) was the Republican candidate.

"In the end, people are going to vote for who they want. If they like

Hillary better than the Republican, I don't think" the question of dynasty "will sway them," said Jones.

Fritz Wentzel, director of communications for the Zogby International polling firm in Utica, New York, says voters tell his company they value a presidential candidate who represents "change" much more than one with "experience."

Wentzel said his firm has not polled specifically on the question of political dynasties.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## What Do Evangelicals Want in 2008?

By Lea Terhune  
Staff Writer

Washington -- A major shift in priorities of evangelical Christian voters is under way, according to recent polls and Christian evangelical leaders. Perspectives have broadened. Global poverty, climate change, world peace and HIV/AIDS are issues that will sway many evangelical voters in 2008, in contrast to a narrower agenda in 2004.

"The religious landscape in 2008 will be dramatically different than 2004," partly because Democratic frontrunners are "explicitly and articulately" discussing their Christian faith, says Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners, a Washington-based Christian social justice group. "That's a big sea change," he told America.gov.

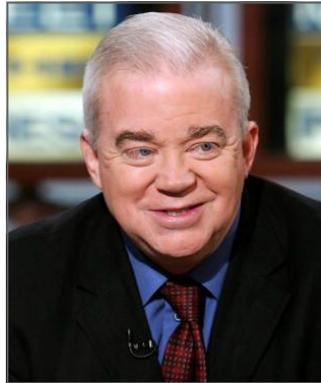
Democrats previously had been perceived as less religious than Republicans.

Possibly more significant, the "agenda of faith communities, including evangelicals, has changed dramatically," Wallis says, "because now it's demonstrably clear that the issues that concern evangelicals go far beyond abortion and gay marriage." He names top global issues like poverty and pandemic disease. "Climate change is now 'creation care.' It's a religious matter," he says.

Around the 1970s, some evangelical Christian tenets became politicized and over the decades evangelicals edged toward the political right, becoming a force in the Republican Party. By 2004, their votes

were driven by two issues: abortion and same-sex marriage. The change to a broader agenda is significant.

"These issues are now all mainstream evangelical issues: the environment, war and peace, human rights violations. Sex trafficking is a huge issue for the younger generation."



Rev. Jim Wallis

helped change the conversation among Christians in the United States. His new book, *The Great Awakening*, examines the implications of applying faith to social justice issues.

"Something is happening that will not trickle down from the top, but will rush up from the bottom and change the wind of politics," Wallis told a panel of conservative evangelical pastors at George Washington University January 23.

Panelist Richard Cizik explains, "We have an agenda as evangelical Christians which begins with religious freedom and sanctity of life principle, and protecting the family and children, but it very importantly includes all the principles of human rights, of peacemaking, of caring for creation."

Cizik is vice president of the Na-

tional Association of Evangelicals (NAE), an organization that boasts 45,000 member churches of 54 denominations and a constituency approaching 30 million. Cizik voted for Bush in 2000 and 2004. He now strongly advocates quick action to mitigate the effects of global warming, and says many evangelicals agree. "A few years ago, evangelicals would have said, 'What? I don't even believe it's occurring.' That's the change."

"We are no longer single-issue voters," he says. "We are not going to blindly follow dominant leaders in the religious right or otherwise who are telling us what to believe."

Lynn Hybels, co-founder of the Willow Creek Community megachurch in Barrington, Illinois, adds, "Now we are returning to a more holistic view ... which is not just redeeming people's souls but it's about redeeming and restoring everything that is broken in this world." Fighting HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa is her special concern.

"I do think there is now a maturing of the movement," Joel Hunter, who leads the influential Northland megachurch in Florida, says. He likens it to adolescence, when "you define yourself by what you hate, by what you're not. And as you grow up you have to start defining yourself by what you are, what you want to build."

### ETHNIC TIES AFFECT EVANGELICALS' POLITICAL PRIORITIES

African-American and other ethnic evangelicals have separate concerns. Cheryl Sanders, Howard University ethics professor and pastor

*(Continued on page 12)*

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## Businesses Find New Ways To Make Money Online

**By Elizabeth Kelleher**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington -- A university professor wants to use the principles and technology of online games in business.

The technology in complex, multiplayer games like World of Warcraft, Second Life, EverQuest or EVE Online -- which organize thousands, sometimes millions, of players online to compete for points or populate "virtual" worlds -- offers new ways to get work done, Stanford University professor Byron Reeves says.

Gaming principles could make boring work fun and increase collaboration among distant experts, according to Reeves.

Already, the 50 largest companies in the United States have "private islands" in Second Life, where they market their brands to customers or recruit workers from a membership hailing from more than 100 countries.

Second Life is an online virtual world created in 2003 by Linden Lab, a San Francisco company. It offers free membership to players who create "avatars," or online personas. Real people then manipulate their avatars to build infrastructure, including landscapes, homes, schools, islands and even night-clubs.

Cisco Systems Inc., of San Jose, California, has registered several of its executives -- whose avatars

have the last name "Cisco," and the company holds press conferences and product demonstration events on its Second Life "island." Cisco has given three-dimensional product briefings and has held contests offering \$10,000 in equipment to



*Screenshot from 'Second Life.'*

Second Life members who can help the company build a better computer-network router. Jeannette Gibson of Cisco said the company has hired real engineers after getting to know them through their avatars.

But business could do even more by borrowing features of Second Life and other online games, Reeves said. For example, he said, virtual economies employed by some online games can be recreated within companies. The games use play money, but their money supplies are controlled.

Reeves founded a company called Seriousity, which has developed a banking system and economy around the same type of play currency used in online games.

Seriousity has done experiments

with International Business Machines (IBM) Corporation and currently is working with other Fortune 500 companies. Using a currency called "attent," whose supply is limited by a board of directors that includes economists, Seriousity has set up a system whereby business managers reward employees or seek their quick attention by attaching the scarce attents to e-mail or other requests. To make it fun, a business using the system can track (and publicize to staff) who is exchanging attents in what amounts. Reeves said this "industrial-strength play money" gives information about how executives value particular projects or employees.

Reeves also says that the ability of the online games to bring together collaborators from around the globe is something businesses should emulate. He cites a company called InnoCentive Inc., in Massachusetts, that posts scientific and business problems on its Web site -- and advertises awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$1 million to anyone who can solve them. "They use the Internet to create a work force that couldn't be assembled otherwise," he said.

The InnoCentive Web site has been used by small companies that cannot afford to build up research and development (R&D) departments and by larger companies that may have R&D but want to pose a problem to thinkers outside their industry. The companies seeking innovative solutions may maintain anonymity; they often do because they are developing consumer products.

*(Continued on page 12)*

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## Businesses Find New Ways To Make Money Online . . .

*(Continued from page 11)*

But the Oil Spill Recovery Institute in Alaska has publicized its experience with InnoCentive. It posed a problem involving how to separate cost-effectively frozen oil and water it had stored in barges after cleaning up an oil spill in Prince William Sound. The solution came from the cement industry and involved an existing tool used to remove bubbles from setting concrete. The person who came up with the solution was awarded \$20,000.

Another collaboration-among-strangers technique is being tested by Amazon.com, the Seattle-based

company that operates retail Web sites. Called "Amazon Mechanical Turk," the service pairs businesses that need an elastic work force with temporary workers able to identify objects in photos, erase duplicate entries in data, transcribe audio tapes or do other tasks that human eyes or ears can do better than computers.

Teleconferencing is evolving through the Internet as well. Cisco has developed "Telepresence," a product that allows life-size, high-definition videoconferencing that features a mirror image that makes participants from diverse locations across the world feel that they are

literally across the table from one another.

Businesses will continue to innovate with ways to work smarter using the Internet, experts say. "The nature of collaboration is the big thing we're pushing today," said Cisco spokesman John Earnhardt.

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## What Do Evangelicals Want in 2008? . . .

*(Continued from page 10)*

of the Third Street Church of God in Washington, points to racism as an issue still to be addressed. "In the history of the African-American church, there hasn't been a time when it's been detached from the social and political message," she said.

"Immigration reform, that's a moral issue for Latino evangelicals," according to Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference. It is also a divisive one.

Panelists agreed that although abortion and other family centered issues remain important, the younger generation wants to express faith through social action.



"The evangelical community is in flux politically," says John Green, Pew Forum senior fellow in religion and American politics. "There is a big generational effect, with younger evangelicals being less Re-

publican and also being very interested in a broader range of issues."

"Younger evangelicals have not become Democrats in large numbers, but many have moved away from being Republicans to being independents. And that's important. That makes it possible for Democrats to attract their votes," Green told America.gov.

Old-guard evangelicals still hold their ground, and the conservative NAE has come under fire from ultra-conservatives for "progressive" statements.

"Religion is a very important factor in American politics," Green says, "it always has been." But how it will affect the 2008 presidential election is an open question. ♦

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## Economic Growth Decline Predicted for 2008, with Rebound in 2009

**By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington -- The pace of U.S. economic growth will slow somewhat through 2008, and an economic rebound is likely to begin early in 2009 as the housing and financial sectors improve, says a Congressional Budget Office forecast.

Peter Orszag, director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), said in testimony before several congressional budget and finance committees that the current economic weakness was created by tight credit, a housing crisis and rising oil prices. The CBO provides Congress at least two economic outlook forecasts annually.

"The state of the economy is particularly uncertain at the moment. The pace of economic growth slowed in 2007, and there are strong indications that it will slacken further in 2008," Orszag said January 24 in congressional testimony. "In CBO's view, the ongoing problems in the housing and financial markets and the high price of oil will curb spending by households and businesses this year and trim the growth of [the gross domestic product]."

A nation's gross domestic product (GDP) is the total market value of all final goods and services produced by a nation. It generally includes four components -- consumer spending, investment, government spending and exports and imports. For 2008, CBO estimates the U.S. GDP to reach approximately \$13.67 trillion and will rise further to \$14.2 trillion in 2009.



*Secretary Rice, right, discusses the U.S. economy in Davos, Switzerland, with former British Prime Minister Blair. (AP Images)*

In congressional testimony, Orszag said it is not likely the U.S. economy will worsen beyond the expected slowing in growth, but the estimate of the gross domestic product is revised throughout the year as conditions change. "CBO expects the economy to rebound after 2008, as the negative effects of the turmoil in the housing and financial markets fade," he said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking January 23 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, said the U.S. economy remains a leading engine for global economic growth, and world markets should have confidence in the underlying strength of the global economy.

"I know that many are concerned by the recent fluctuations in U.S. financial markets, and by concerns

about the U.S. economy," she said. "The U.S. economy is resilient, its structure is sound, and its long-term economic fundamentals are healthy. The United States continues to welcome foreign investment and free trade."

On January 18, President Bush announced he was asking Congress to pass a temporary economic package designed to stimulate consumer spending and business investment. He said the stimulus package would amount to about 1 percent of GDP, or between \$140 billion and \$145 billion, though the final amount could reach as high as \$150 billion.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Republican Minority Leader John Boehner announced January 24 that a deal had been struck between the White House and Congress to provide a stimulus package of tax rebates for consumers and incentives for business investment. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told the Reuters news agency that the bipartisan package could be sent to Bush for his signature by mid-February.

That action in fiscal policy by the president was matched by the U.S. Federal Reserve on January 22 in monetary policy when it lowered interest rates to encourage banks to lend money to businesses and stimulate investment. That action helped world stock markets rally and recover from a trading slide that began earlier.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said in congressional testimony that he sees an economic stimulus package as effective in blunting recent economic turmoil as long as the stimulus package is timely, targeted and temporary. ♦

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## U.S. Universities Strive To Increase Student Diversity

By Jeffrey Thomas  
Staff Writer

Washington -- Supporting diversity and creating a sense of inclusiveness for minority and foreign-born students are growing priorities for U.S. graduate schools. The University of Virginia recently received a national award for its new program to support graduate student diversity.

The award -- the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)/Peterson's Award for Innovation in Promoting an Inclusive Graduate Community -- recognizes innovative efforts to identify, recruit and retain minority graduate students.

"We know that having students from many different backgrounds ensures a diversity of thought, which we believe is an important element of research inquiry," said R. Ariel Gomez, vice president for research and graduate studies at the University of Virginia (U.Va.). His office has established a new pilot mentoring program for graduate students from diverse backgrounds. The program -- grounded in research conducted by University of Virginia Darden School of Business professor Martin Davidson and Dartmouth College professor Lynn Foster-Johnson -- aims to address both the challenges faced by graduate students from underrepresented populations and the need for faculty mentors to understand the unique experiences of these students.

The CGS-Peterson's award, presented at the Council of Graduate Schools annual meeting in Seattle in December 2007, includes a \$20,000 grant to create an Inter-Ethnic/Interdisciplinary Mentoring Institute for Graduate Education.



*Posed near the campus of the AdCenter at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond are (from left to right) Jay Kamath, Margert Sledge, Jennifer Palacios, Priyanka Guha and Tomoko Izumoto. The number of minority students enrolled in the school has almost doubled in the last two years. Photo: Jeff Hutchens*

A key component of the program will be the use of "reciprocal mentoring," a mutually beneficial process that nurtures students while raising the cultural sensitivity and mentoring skills of faculty.

"Students teach their teaching faculty in the process of learning from them," Cheryl Burgan Evans, U.Va.'s director of graduate student diversity programs, explained in an interview. "This is necessary at U.Va. because not enough minority faculty are available to meet the mentoring needs," she said. Reciprocal mentoring helps to sensitize faculty to the needs of minority students.

U.Va. students tend to do well academically, and the university has a high retention rate, Evans said. What the university hopes to improve is its climate of inclusiveness. "[Foreign-born students] tend to do well, but they don't always have

such a positive experience on the personal and cultural side," she said.

### MINORITY ENROLMENT GROWTH

A recent CGS survey shows strong growth in the enrollment of every minority group in U.S. graduate schools over the past decade. Between 1996 and 2006, Hispanic enrollment grew an average of 5 percent each year, while African-American, Asian and American Indian enrollment grew an average of 4 percent a year, compared with no growth for white students. International student enrollment grew an average of 4 percent annually during the 1996-2006 period.

As of 2006, some 59 percent of U.S. graduate students were female. Initially, U.Va.'s diversity program will focus on African-American, gay and Hispanic students. "We plan to expand the men-

*(Continued on page 20)*

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## Rice Says United States Does Not Want Iran as a Permanent Enemy

**By Stephen Kaufman**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington -- Saying the United States "has no permanent enemies," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice reached out to Iran, urging the country's officials to cease their support for violent groups and the pursuit of technologies that could lead to possession of a nuclear weapon. In return, she said, both countries could work together for normalized relations and growing bilateral cooperation.

Rice told international delegates to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that disagreements over Iran's continued uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities "can and should be resolved through diplomacy."

The United States "has no desire to have a permanent enemy in Iran, even after 29 years of difficult history," she said January 23. Rice also praised Iran's culture and contribution to world civilization. But there are "real differences" with the Iranian government over its support for terrorism, destabilizing actions in Iraq and nuclear activities, she said.

The January 22 agreement among the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany to pass a third sanctions resolution against Iran demonstrates "that we remain united, that we do not want Iran to become a nuclear weapons power, and that we will continue to hold Iran to its international obliga-

tions," Rice said.

However, if Iran is willing to meet international demands, "we could begin negotiations, and we could work over time to build a new, more normal relationship -- one defined not by fear and mistrust, but growing cooperation, expanding trade and exchange, and the peaceful management of our differences."

Rice also told the forum that the United States will continue to work for political and economic freedom, open markets and human rights worldwide because "we do not accept a firm distinction between our national interests and our universal ideals."

She acknowledged international skepticism of American motives and ideals, and that the United States sometimes is perceived as a nation that does not dwell enough on its history. "To that, I say: Good for us. Because too much focus on history can become a prison for nations," she said.

"America has no permanent enemies, because we harbor no permanent hatreds," Rice said, adding that diplomacy can transform enemies, if not into friends, then at least into nations, which no longer are adversaries.

The secretary pointed to the recent transformation of the long hostile U.S. relationship with Libya. "[A]s Libya has chosen to reject terrorism, to renounce its pursuit of

weapons of mass destruction, and to rejoin the international community, the United States has reached out, and today, though we still have our differences, we have nothing to fear from one another," she said.

Likewise, former adversaries such as Vietnam, Russia and China have become countries with which the United States now is cooperating on trade and international security issues.

"Optimism and confidence in our ideals are perhaps a part of the American character, and I admit that this can make us a somewhat impatient nation," Rice said, but despite short-term tensions and challenges to its idealistic policies, "we know that they tend to be in harmony when we take the long view."

The full text (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttransenglish/2008/January/20080123183031bpuh0.4350092.html>) of Rice's keynote speech is available on [America.gov](http://America.gov).

*(USINFO is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## NATO's Stake in Afghanistan Is High, Shortfalls Must Be Met

**By Jacquelyn S. Porth**  
**Staff Writer**

Washington -- If it takes a village to raise a child, so too will it take a significant contribution by the international community -- particularly a concerted, sustained push by NATO -- to ease Afghanistan along a path where it can meet expectations. The coalition of U.S., NATO and Afghan forces has been working diligently to overcome the Taliban and promote security while fostering change in areas ranging from education to anti-corruption.

Coalition forces and nongovernment partners recognize that success in Afghanistan requires a complicated balance of security, development and good governance. The ultimate goal is a self-reliant nation committed to a representative government. That is why the NATO Summit in Romania in April will include an expanded meeting on Afghanistan to examine successes, ways to address shortfalls and milestones to reach by 2013.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald Neumann told America.gov that summit leaders need to strive for consensus about the alliance's purpose in Afghanistan and the means by which to achieve its objectives there. The president of the Washington-based American Academy of Diplomacy suggested the need for "a harmonizing approach."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says that neither the trans-Atlantic alliance nor the United States is performing perfectly. Alliance

members have to level with their constituencies about the reality of war in Afghanistan, she said, including required sacrifices of time, treasure and blood. This is "not just a peacekeeping operation," she reminded the World Economic Forum January 23, "and the stakes could not be higher for the Afghan people, for our alliance and for international security."



*Workmen at the Panjsad Family High School in Kabul (USAID)*

In view of the alliance's political commitment to success in Afghanistan, Neumann said, the outcome of that struggle "is going to have a very big effect on the future of NATO," adding, "It cannot afford to fail." The United States has praised NATO partners for their contribution to Afghanistan's recovery, and especially for their leadership via the 41,700-member International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). But there is still pressure for more combat troops, security trainers or in-kind services such as military equipment or logistics.

The U.S. ambassador to NATO re-

cently pointed to allies such as Lithuania -- which is running a provincial reconstruction team in Ghor province -- as "really punching above their weight class." Still, Ambassador Victoria Nuland tackled the subject of burden sharing by saying, "We are concerned that defense budgets are declining across Europe at a time when the world needs more peacekeepers, more deployable capability for places like Afghanistan."

ISAF's mission is to provide security so that reconstruction and humanitarian efforts can be completed. Smaller NATO nations can make a great difference by offering expertise or delivering food.

Following the lead of Turkey, the Netherlands, Canada and the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic soon will send a team to Lowgar province to oversee reconstruction and stabilization efforts. The Czechs also have bolstered the Afghan Air Corps by providing helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft, and now France also will supply airpower as well.

### **STREAMLINED STRATEGIC PLANNING NEEDED**

But the need for additional NATO forces remains. The United States recently decided to deploy 3,200 Marines for seven months, but a gap remains, as thousands more police trainers are needed.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says NATO has to start thinking about how to backfill when those Marines depart. He also has alluded to the need for better alliance-wide training in counterinsurgency operations, pointing to a specialized academy in Kabul as a par-

## Autocratic Powers Partly To Blame for Decline in Global Freedom

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington -- In its annual report on the status of freedom around the world, the Freedom House organization noted that, for the first time in 15 years, the level of global freedom has decreased for two consecutive years. In explaining the causes of this decline, the organization criticized the role that countries such as Russia, China, Iran and Venezuela are playing in undermining pro-democracy movements in neighboring countries.

As a prime example, the year 2007 saw the brutal suppression by the Burmese military government of the peaceful pro-democracy movement led by the country's Buddhist monks. Freedom House's Southeast Asia analyst Camille Eiss told reporters in Washington January 16 that the result of the government's action led to several hundred deaths and between 3,000 and 6,000 arrests.

The suppression, she said, showed that Burma, already "one of the worst performers worldwide," had declined even further.

"With all eyes on Burma, the world also turned to China for its tremendous influence over the military junta and its largest trading partner, and also in the region more broadly as a model of persistent political repression," Eiss said.

The annual report says China's role in Burma, as the provider of diplomatic and economic support, has been "particularly negative." The country also plays a negative role in North Korea through its forceful repatriation of those who have fled the Pyongyang regime and in Af-

rica, where the country "provides various kinds of aid, including security assistance, to authoritarian countries and undermines the efforts of the United States, the Euro-



*Supporters of Burmese pro-democracy activists protest China's support of the country's military junta. (© AP Images)*

pean Union, and multilateral institutions to promote honest and transparent governance," the report says. In addition to describing China as "an impediment" to the spread of democracy in East Asia and Africa, the report also cites Russia, Iran and Venezuela as "powerful autocracies" having a "negative impact ... on smaller, less powerful neighboring countries." This development is described as a "particularly worrying phenomenon" in the 2007 report.

"Pragmatic, market-oriented or energy-rich dictatorships ... are trying

to harness the power of the marketplace while maintaining closed political systems," the report says, obtaining their powerful economic influence through petroleum or capital from long-term trade surpluses.

"These autocracies are unapologetic and increasingly assertive, at home and abroad, in declaring that the paradigm of rights-based governance as the international community has long understood it is not relevant for the 21st century," the report says.

Arch Puddington, director of research at Freedom House told reporters that the Freedom House findings came within the context of a year "marked by a notable setback for global freedom." He noted that, for the first time in 15 years, the survey reported two years of decline in global freedom in a row, with only 10 countries showing improvement versus 38 countries -- one-fifth of the world's total -- where freedom has declined.

Along with the negative role played by powerful autocracies, Puddington ascribed the global decline to issues such as corruption and its corrosive role in eroding faith in democracy, as well as problems instituting the rule of law.

However, Puddington also noted that, in the much longer term, the world has seen a "steady progress of freedom" based upon the accumulated data from the past 30 years. In 1977, Freedom House classified only 28 percent of the world's countries as being free. The number rose to 35 percent in 1987 and 42 percent in 1997, and stood at 47 percent at the end of 2007. ♦

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## Efforts Continue To Keep the World Focused on Human Rights

Developments in recent decades are advancing the cause of human rights around the world. The 1993 Vienna World Conference on Human Rights, for example, helped refocus international attention on human rights in the post-Cold War world.

The war crimes tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, established by the U.N. Security Council in 1993 and 1994, have developed the law of armed conflict and international humanitarian law, seeking to protect civilians and noncombatants in those civil war conflicts.

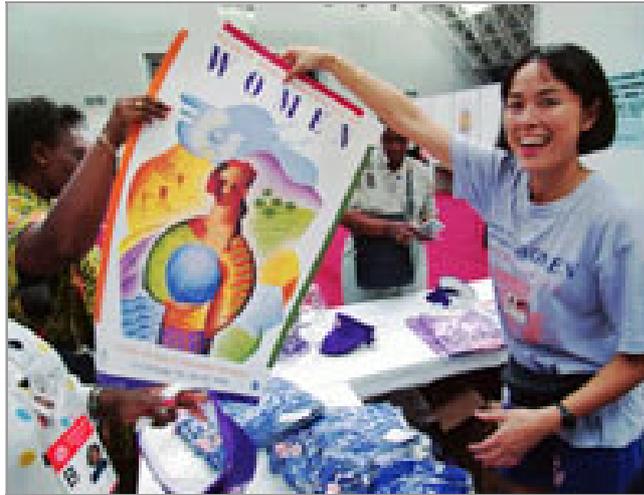
Special tribunals were established for Sierra Leone in 2002 and Cambodia in 2003 to prosecute military and political leaders responsible for atrocities during times of war and genocide. In addition, although the United States has not joined as a treaty party, and has expressed certain reservations about its scope, the International Criminal Court was established in 1998 by the Rome treaty, and has been tasked by the U.N. Security Council to prosecute human rights violations in the Darfur conflict in Sudan.

The 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, attempted to place women's issues within the mainstream of international human rights discussions.

With its emphasis on "good governance," the World Bank highlights important human rights issues. The Council of Europe and the European Union have stressed that countries seeking to join the political structures of Europe must have policies that protect human rights.

In 2002, the United States established the Millennium Challenge Corporation to provide economic assistance to countries that govern democratically, invest in their people and encourage economic freedom.

mission on Human Rights. Furthermore, publicity often helps at least a few of the more prominent victims of repression regain a measure of freedom and perhaps avoid execution. The World Wide Web has made it easier for human rights groups to link up and publicize issues.



*Volunteer distributes posters for the U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995. (© AP Images)*

National and international norms and expectations are being altered for the better. The idea of human rights has a moral force and mobilizing power that is difficult to resist in today's world. And, as more and more citizens throughout the world come to think of themselves as endowed with inalienable rights, the demand for human rights continues to cause dictators to flee and their governments

### THE ROLE OF PUBLICITY

Another positive development is the light of embarrassing international publicity that increasingly is focused on persistent human rights violators. Global, regional and national groups have created a web of pressures that make it almost impossible today for states to avoid being held accountable publicly for their human rights practices.

The value of publicizing violations and trying to shame states into better behavior should not be underestimated. Even vicious governments may care about their international reputations. For example, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Argentine military regime devoted considerable diplomatic effort to thwart the investigations of the U.N. Com-

to crumble.

The sword might prove mightier than the word in the short run. But the task of human rights advocates, wherever they may be, is the ancient and noble one of speaking the truth of justice to power. And one of the most heartening lessons of much recent history is that truth can triumph.

This article, the fourth in a series of four ( <https://cms.usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=hr-english&y=2008&m=January&x=20080123183439ajes-roM0.9643824> )

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## The Birth and Development of Human Rights in the United States

The United States has played a special role in the development and support of human rights ideas and practices. The Declaration of Independence, by which the American Colonies severed their allegiance to the British Crown in 1776, proclaimed that "all men are created equal." No less important, the declaration asserted the right of a people to dissolve political bonds that had come to be oppressive.

With the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to the Constitution), the world witnessed the first practical experiment in creating a government that would be judged by the extent to which it respected and protected the rights of its citizens. The earliest Americans did not speak of "human rights" per se, but they did speak of freedom and liberties. Many of the first Colonists came to the New World seeking religious freedom denied to them in 17th-century Europe. In forming their communities, they developed, over time, a sense of religious tolerance as well as a passion for self-government.

When the time came for the American Colonists to break away from Britain, they had a well-established body of law and custom that recognized freedom of speech, freedom of religious worship and freedom of assembly. To petition government, to have a jury trial, and to have a say in governing their own affairs were other cherished rights.

### THE BILL OF RIGHTS

There were many who opposed the

new Constitution in the beginning. Their consent to the document came only with the promise that a series of amendments would be added guaranteeing civil liberties -- liberties that already were part of most state constitutions.

The 10 amendments, known collec-

Rights, only 17 additional amendments have been made part of the Constitution.

### EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Even with the adoption of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights,



*Children read the U.S. Declaration of Independence. (©AP Images)*

tively as the Bill of Rights, were added to the Constitution in 1791 and guaranteed, among other freedoms, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right of the people peaceably to assemble, the right of people to petition the government for a redress of grievances, the right of people to not be subject to unreasonable searches and seizures, and the right to due process of law and speedy and public trial by an impartial jury.

Since the adoption of the Bill of

slavery and discrimination against American Indians, women and other groups continued for many years. But one of the features of American democracy is that self-correcting mechanisms like elections and courts tend to remedy the mistakes of earlier eras. The simple power of the idea of equality also has helped to correct social ills.

The United States also has a long record of positive international action on behalf of human rights. After World War I, U.S. President

*(Continued on page 20)*

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**The Birth and Development of Human Rights in the . . .**

*(Continued from page 19)*

Woodrow Wilson championed national self-determination and protection of minorities by the international community. After World War II, the United States devoted considerable effort and money to sustaining and rebuilding democracy in Europe and to establishing democracy in Japan. The United States was a leader in decolonization, granting independence to the Philippines in 1946. And with the end of the Cold War, the United States has emerged as a leader in multilateral human rights and humanitarian initiatives in Somalia, Sudan, Haiti, Bosnia and other countries.

**ANNUAL REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**

The U.S. State Department is required by law each year to submit several comprehensive reports on human rights to Congress. They include:

- Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, a detailed assessment of the situation in countries around the world;
- Supporting Human Rights and Democracy, descriptions of what the U.S. government is doing to address the abuses noted in the country reports;
- International Religious Freedom Report, an examination of the degree to which people are free to worship as they please;
- Trafficking in Persons Report, a survey of modern-day slavery.

When completed, these reports are delivered to Congress and placed on the Internet at [http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights.html) for dissemination worldwide. ♦

**U.S. Universities Strive To Increase Student Diversity . . .**

*(Continued from page 14)*

toring institute to include international students, as well as majority students, after the pilot stage of this program," Evans said. At the undergraduate level, U.Va. already has a successful peer mentoring program in which third- and fourth-year minority students mentor freshmen and sophomores, she said. African-American students made up 11.4 percent of this year's entering class at the University of Virginia, tying Columbia University in New York City for first place among the nation's top-rated universities in a ranking published by the Journal of Blacks in Higher Education.

"The university has dedicated significant effort and resources toward enhancing graduate student diversity and creating a climate

conducive to academic and personal success among students from diverse backgrounds," Evans said. In addition to the CGS-Peterson's grant, U.Va. will commit resources to ensure the success and longevity of the mentoring program.

"We anticipate this program will serve as a model for the university and the graduate community in general," said Roseanne Ford, University of Virginia associate vice president for research and graduate studies. "Quality mentoring is a critical component to promoting student success in graduate education, particularly for students from diverse backgrounds."

**HUMAN RICHNESS**

Like many institutions, the University of Virginia has had to over-

come a period in its history before the civil rights era when no minorities were admitted, Evans said. "Then it went through a second phase where a small number of [minority] students were allowed to matriculate. It is now in the third phase, where capacity building is taking place. This means that there is considerable recognition of the value of diversity and inclusiveness and, most [important], of starting a pipeline for sustainability."

"We value diversity here because it has to do with the human richness, the variety of experiences and backgrounds and perspectives and reasons for learning that distinguish us as people, based on our own backgrounds, our own expectations and our own prior experiences," said U.Va. President John T. Casteen III. ♦